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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Vienna Congress.

THE PROCEEDINGS of the Congress of 1905 have recently appeared from the press of FISCHER (Jena), apparently published by the Local Committee.¹ At the same time there is published from the same house a volume containing the "scientific results" of the Congress as *Publications scientifiques de l'Association internationale des botanistes*.² The volumes have been distributed gratuitously to all members of the Congress, and are presumably for sale by the publisher; but the price is not stated.

The volume of *Verhandlungen* contains an account of the organization of the Congress and its daily proceedings in general sessions; the various excursions before and after the meetings; the botanical exposition (illustrated); but the greater part of the space (182 out of 262 pages) is devoted to an account of the meetings of the section for the revision of the laws of nomenclature. Here one finds not merely the *procès verbal*, but a list of the delegates and the institutions represented, an account of the discussions based on stenographic and other notes, and the votes on each question. Then follows, with double pagination, evidently for separate publication: (1) a concordance of the adopted rules with the Paris Code; (2) the revised code for the vascular plants, printed in French, English, and German; (3) a list of the names to be preserved as exceptions to the strict rule of priority; and (4) a thorough analytical index. This section of the report shows the painstaking care of M. JOHN BRIQUET, the general secretary, to whose devotion, skill, and knowledge so much of the success of the nomenclature commission was due.

¹ Verhandlungen des internationalen botanischen Kongresses in Wien 1905. Actes du congrès international de botanique à Vienne (Autriche) 1905. Herausgegeben im Namen des Organisations-Komitees für den Kongress von R. VON WETTSTEIN und J. WIESNER als Präsidenten und A. ZALHBRUCKNER als General-Sekretär. Redigiert von J. BRIQUET (Genf), A. GINZBERGER, V. SCHIFFNER, TH. v. WEINZIRL, R. v. WETTSTEIN und A. ZAHLBRUCKNER (Wien). Imp. 8vo. pp. vi+262. figs. 7. Jena: G. Fischer. 1906.

² Publications scientifiques de l'Association internationale des botanistes. I. Résultats scientifiques du congrès international de botanique à Vienne, 1905. Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse des internationalen botanischen Kongresses Wien 1905. Herausgegeben im Namen des Organisations-Komitees für den Kongress von R. VON WETTSTEIN und J. WIESNER als Präsidenten und A. ZALHBRUCKNER als General-Sekretär. Redigiert von P. J. LOTSY, General-Sekretär des Ass. Int. des Bot. Imp. 8vo. pp. vi+446. pls. 3. map 1. figs. 58. Jena: G. Fischer. 1906.

It seems a bit invidious to distinguish the other volume as *Résultats scientifiques*; but it may pass as a conventional title. The four hundred odd pages are occupied by the formal addresses, and papers volunteered for the Congress, twenty-six in number. They are therefore of unequal quality and of different character. Some are general summaries of the present status of important divisions of botanical science; others are special and technical. Only one comes from America—"A classification of Uredineae based on structure and development," by Dr. J. C. ARTHUR—and this is translated into German. The only English pages are those of Dr. D. H. SCOTT on "The fern-like seed-plants of the carboniferous flora." A good index makes available the entire contents. The two volumes should be in every botanical reference library.—C. R. B.

Knuth's Handbook.

In 1899 the first volume of KNUTH's *Handbuch der Blütenbiologie* appeared,³ based on HERMANN MÜLLER's *Die Befruchtung der Blumen durch Insekten*. It is general and deals with the structure of flowers and of insects in relation to pollination. In the same year the second volume appeared,⁴ giving an account of all known observations upon the pollination of the flowers of arctic and temperate zones. The third and last volume was published after the death of KNUTH, under the editorship of LOEW, and deals similarly with plants from countries other than Europe. The Clarendon Press has undertaken the publication of an English translation, the first volume of which has lately appeared,⁵ and the second volume is announced as being in press. The translator is J. R. AINSWORTH DAVIS, Trinity College, Cambridge, and the prefatory note is by Professor I. B. BALFOUR.

The character of this encyclopedic work is well known to students of pollination, and it is a great boon to English and American botanists to possess it in an English translation. The original text appeared in instalments, and the appendices of supplementary information have been incorporated in the body of the text by the translator. A special feature of the translation is the bringing together in one list all the citations in the original, and completing the record to January 1, 1904. The number of citations is almost beyond belief, the botanical titles in the bibliographical list reaching 3748. It must be said, however, that the citations are probably more numerous than significant, as a cursory examination suggests. There are frequent cases where "fertilization" is confused with "pollination," and papers cited which can hardly be imagined as belonging to the real literature of pollination. Then too, there is occasional duplication of titles, as for example titles 633 and 643, which are identical in every particular. The dreadful task of editing such a mass of citations should

³ BOT. GAZETTE 28:280. 1899.

⁴ BOT. GAZETTE 28:432. 1899.

⁵ KNUTH, PAUL, Handbook of flower pollination. Translated by J. R. AINSWORTH DAVIS. Volume I. 8 vo. pp. xix+382. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1906.